

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII 726 MINNESOTA AVENUE KANSAS CITY KANSAS 66101

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT Inclusion of Jasper County Mining Area, Missouri, on NPL Update #6

FROM

David A Wagoner

Director, Waste Management Division

TO

Henry L Longest, II, Director

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

This is in response to your memo dated December 18, 1985, regarding the Jasper County Mining Area Shelley Brodie, Technical Analysis and Support Section, has been working with your staff to resolve the questions raised in the memo Issues concerning the investigation and sampling strategy for the site were addressed in a December 5, 1985, meeting with Scott Parrish and Trudi Fancher, HQ, Sue Russell and Steve Chang, MITRE, and Shelley Brodie, Region VII The site has now been rescored by Glenn Curtis, TAT, and has passed the quality control review by the Region Issues that have been addressed are as follows

Issue

Resolution

<u>Ground Water Route</u>

Contamination Data

Data used to document a significant increase of lead and zinc in the shallow aquifer was from a mine shaft in Cherokee County, and may not be appropriately considered as part of the site

This data was not part of the original Region VII package Revisions were made as per MITRE directions These data points were chosen because they were adjacent to state line and because the sample was from a well, not a mine shaft different set of data points has been chosen to document an observed release to the shallow aguifer (see attached HRS package)

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SUPERFUND RECORDS

Issue

Drinking Water Use

An actual count of the target population using the shallow aquifer has not been determined

Background Levels

Background levels for lead and zinc are based solely on verbal communication with a geologist knowledgeable of the area An attempt should be made to locate an actual background sample although this may not be possible due to the geology and extent of mining activities in the area

Surface Water Route

Hazardous Waste Quantity

An adequate waste quantity has not been documented within 3 upstream miles of the Joplin water intake
Therefore, the population of the city of Joplin cannot be counted as part of the target population

Resolution

In the rescored package, the documentation includes rural water district boundaries and personal communication with the residents to provide a house count According to guidance from MITRE, the documentation enclosed for the actual count of the population exceeds HRS requirements

The geologist cited, Jim Barks, USGS, has done several studies on the mining area and is particularly familiar with the Joplin area

His opinion of the background levels was considered conservative We have calculated an average background concentration based on well sample analyses in the area and it is much lower than the figure previously used. We have scheduled a PA with selected sampling and will use this more recent data to further document the background levels in the area.

In the rescored package, we are not documenting an observed release to the surface water This has been scored using route characteristics Issue

Resolution

Air Route

Monitoring

The Region may consider use of stationary source air monitoring to demonstrate an air release threatening the population of Joplin

We have considered this option but do not feel that use of stationary source air monitoring would demonstrate an air release that would be significant

I understand that due to the above issues, this site could not be included on the NPL Update #5 However, I look forward to its inclusion on the 6th Update

Attachments

cc Trudi Fancher, Discovery & Investigation Branch, w/attachments(2) 2
